

Hamilton Jewish News

SERVING HAMILTON WENTWORTH AND AREA

DECEMBER 2006 VOL 21:2

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UJA 2007 Right On Target Israel Emergency Campaign Surpasses Goal

According to UJA Federation executive director, Gerald Fisher, "There are moments when it seems that Sheik Nasrallah of Hezbollah is our most successful UJA canvasser. Every time he opens his mouth on TV, people call to contribute to UJA and the Israel Emergency Campaign."

This year's UJA annual campaign was launched at the July 27th Israel Solidarity Rally.

The event not only launched the UJA campaign but also served as the launch for the Israel Emergency Campaign; an additional initiative required to address the urgent needs caused by the war. The early start and the images of Israeli communities in flames spurred an early and intense interest in ensuring that the campaign meets its goals.

UJA leaders are grateful to be able to announce that the campaign is well over half way to its goal of \$1.1M. The Israel Emergency Campaign has already surpassed the result of a similar effort in 2002, run during the height of the intifada. On this basis, a campaign close by the end of December is within reach. If achieved, it would be the fastest and most effective UJA campaign in memory.

"Even with this encouraging news, nobody is resting on their laurels", said Men's Campaign Co-Chair **Larry Levin**. Dr. Levin, along with Co-Chair **Michael Kam** met recently to review the status of the campaign's top three divisions. According to Mr. Kam, there has been significant progress in both expanding the donor base and in raising the giving levels.

"Concern about the war made it possible for us to bring significant numbers of donors and volunteer canvassers to participate in major UJA events in Toronto. Anybody who listened to Charles Krauthammer and Allan Dershowitz understood the need for increased UJA support in ways that led to immediate and positive response."

Increased support is also obvious within the UJA Women's Campaign. Aply led by co-chairs **Jo-ann Pomerantz and Debbie Strub**, the Women's Campaign has kept pace by delivering an overall increase of 13% plus the



Some of Hamilton's Lions of Judah posed for a photograph at a private reception held prior to the Brigitte Gabriel event. (see page 3) Pictured above (l to r) are Milli Gould, Sasha Weisz, Cele Steinberg, Cheryl Greenbaum, Rita Shapiro, Isabel Strub, Batia Phillips, Shirley Molot, Sandi Seigel and Liz Tick.

addition of 3 more women into the coveted Lion of Judah division. Perhaps the most exciting element in the Women's Campaign is the creation of the "Girlfriends," an informal group of young women who are now coming together for socializing, education and support of the community. According to Ms. Strub, "the emergence of this young "leadership" group is a

key element in ensuring a healthy Jewish future for Hamilton."

Shirley Molot, VP for Financial Resources Development reminds us that the encouraging news from the campaign results so far should not distract us from some very serious issues. "We are doing well, but the campaign is far from over. I urge all of our volunteer canvassers and team cap-

tain to remain focused on the job until it is completed. I also urge everyone to not lose sight of why we do this. Without losing sight of needs in our own community, the devastation caused by the recent war requires all of us to do more... and to do it right away. When Israel is in such desperate need, how can we be complacent?"

Federation - JCC Consultants To Return

During the past six months UJA Federation and JCC have been collaborating on a community planning process to investigate several key issues related to the future of the Centre. The process has reached the stage of gathering the last points of information for consideration by the members of the Fed - JCC Joint Collaborative Committee and our consultants.

Key issues under review include determination of the programs and services the community expects and is willing to support and the most appropriate organizational vehicles to deliver them. Also under review is the viability of the current facility.

United Jewish Communities consultant, Andrew Paller, and Jewish Community Centre Association consultant, Arnie Sohinki, will return to Hamilton on December 5th and 6th. Their itinerary will include conducting focus groups with selected community members, individual interviews with leading philanthropists, meetings with the Collaborative Committee and a joint meeting of the Federation and JCC Executive Committees.

In the interim, UJA Federation has given its support to JCC to conduct a limited fund raising campaign designed to assist the agency address immediate needs in both operational

and capital replacements areas.

Several focus groups and preliminary interviews have already taken place. Four more focus groups are expected to take place between now and early December. The final component of the fact finding will include a community wide survey to be distributed when the consultants are in Hamilton.

The process, which has a deadline of December 30th, was delayed during the summer because of the war in Lebanon and the critical need to launch the Israel Emergency Campaign. Both UJA Federation and JCC have made completion of the process the top priority for the month of December.

UJA Federation of Hamilton wishes you a

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Please note that new CRA (Canada Revenue Agency) regulations provide significant tax benefits for payment of charitable contributions through transfers of appreciated stock. For payment of your UJA pledge with stock transfers contact the office for detailed information at 905-648-0605

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POB 7258
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PUBLISHER:
Wendy Schneider

EDITOR:
Wendy Schneider

MANAGING EDITOR:
Gerald Fisher

TELEPHONE:
(905) 628-0058

FAX:
(905) 627-7099

EMAIL:
wendy.schneider@sympatico.ca

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EDITORIAL POLICY

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Deadline for submissions for the next edition of the HJN is **January 10, 2007.**

UJA Federation of Hamilton

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Our Sincere Thanks to This Year's Super Sunday Participants

Norman Williams, Sheila Levitt, Samatha Richter, Bonnie Loewith, David Loewith, Dena Honig, Ed Zaltz, Raefie Epstein, Janet Weisz, Jonathan Fleish, Lorraine Cohen, Shirley Zucker, Dafna Bener, Howard Eisenberg, Steve Varadi, Anna Rae Fishman, Sandy Morris, Dolly Cohen, Judy Mendelson and Les Lasky



Lisa Morris Super Sunday Chair
Larry Levin, Michael Kam, Jo-Ann Pomerantz & Debbie Strub
UJA Campaign 2007 Co-Chairs

Ralph Travis Israel Experience Applications Now Available

Students intending to participate in short term education programs in Israel in 2007 may be eligible for financial support through the Ralph Travis Israel Experience Scholarship Fund.

The Ralph Travis Israel Experience fund was established by family and friends of the late Ralph Travis to honor his deep commitments to Israel. The fund provides limited financial support to students participating in a myriad of wonderful education programs designed to meet practically every interest and timeframe.

Social research has repeatedly demonstrated that a quality education experience in Israel is the single, most positive contributing factor to a healthy Jewish identity and to future commitments to participation in Jewish life as an adult. In response to this information, almost every Diaspora education program, youth movement, synagogue movement etc. sponsors its own short term program in Israel. Israeli based institutions have also developed their own programming initiatives. As a result, there are literally hundreds of quality education experiences available to every age group.

As a function of both its fiduciary responsibility, as well as its responsibility to assist parents and students find the most suitable program, UJA Federation of Hamilton ascribes to the parameters developed by the Israel Experience Program National office.

The national Israel Experience Program office has vetted hundreds of Israel programs to ensure that they meet strict criteria in terms of safety, supervision, education standards and standard of living issues.

Financial support through the Ralph Travis Israel Experience Scholarship is limited to support for programs approved through the IEP national office. Families applying are expected to be in good standing with the UJA annual campaign.

Application deadline for summer 2007 program is March 16th, 2007. For more information about approved programs, go to www.jewishcanada.org. For more information about our local scholarship initiative, or to receive an application, please contact the UJA Federation of Hamilton office at 905-648-0605 or cnuscauja@on.aibn.com.

Holocaust Education Programming Reflects Committee's Concerted Efforts



Pictured above from l to r are Willy Steen, Doris Schulman, Sue Schiff, Nadia Rosa, Michele Finkelstein, Cindy Mark and Heather Ritter

Thanks to the hard work of UJA Federation's Holocaust Education committee, the Hamilton community has been the beneficiary of a marked increase in Holocaust programming. Over the last 12 months the committee organized the following programs: March of the Living; a student symposium attended by 800 students at Mohawk College; two symposiums for high school teachers; and three programs over Holocaust Education Week this past November. The committee is currently working on the planning and promotion of the Asper Foundation Human Rights and Holocaust Studies Program with the intent of sending 54 Jewish and non-Jewish students from the Hamilton community to the bi-annual trip to Washington, D.C. to visit the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

The three programs held over Holocaust Education Week this past November included lectures presented over two separate evenings by Professor Arnold Ages and Holocaust survivor, Peter Silverman and the screening of the film Fateless at the Westdale Theatre. All three programs enjoyed high attendance from both the Jewish and non Jewish communities thanks to free publicity from The Hamilton Spectator.

At the recent symposium for secondary school teachers of the Hamilton-Wentworth Public and Separate School Boards,



Rabbi Bernard Baskin with Reverend Loretta Jaunzarins and Professor Arnold Ages

keynote speaker Franca Ianni spoke on Methodology in Holocaust Education Teaching. Commenting on the event, committee member Judy Schwartz

said, "Ms. Franca Ianni gave concrete instructions on how to teach this most difficult subject. The booklet she handed out should be used in every school to ensure that the lessons of the Holocaust will never be forgotten."

Judy Schwartz is the Committee's point person whenever a school calls into the Federation office seeking programming on the Holocaust or in response to an antisemitic incident. Last year she was asked to go into the schools on three separate occasions. In each of the cases, she arranged for Holocaust survivors to address students on the consequences of hate. She shared a vivid recollection where local survivor Emmy Weisz, with pen in hand, drew a line on a board. Then, she proceeded to draw a swastika. The lesson was clear: The power of the pen can be used in both positive and destructive ways.

"We should be very proud that this program exists in our community", said Ms. Schwartz, "and that our committee can reach out to any school or any group that needs us to be there."

Michele Finkelstein, who recently stepped down as chair of the Committee after a four year tenure, echoed that sentiment when she said,

"As a committee we are very proud of the programs that we were able to provide for the community and hope that we will continue to do so in the future."



Willy Steen with survivor Peter Silverman

UJA Federation

Women Of All Generations Step Up To Leadership Challenge

Staff and lay leadership at UJA Federation have been delighted with the increasing activism among younger women in the community who have stepped into leadership roles vacated by their predecessors. The season began with a "Girlfriends" event at the home of **Dana Horwood** back in early September, which was designed to raise awareness about the role that UJA Federation plays in the community. A few weeks later a reception was held at the home of **Debbie Sheinbaum** where women in the Top Gifts Division as well as younger women eager to step into leadership roles were given the opportunity to meet with Brigitte Gabriel prior to her keynote address later that evening.

The Federation also wants to pay tribute to the following for their leadership over the past year: to **Lisa Morris**, for chairing the Super Sunday UJA Telethon; to **Vivienne Epstein**, Vice President, Human Resources Development; to **Michele Finkelstein** for overseeing an outstanding series of Holocaust Education programs as chair of the Holocaust Education Committee; to **Debbie Strub, Andrea Molot and Dana Horwood**, for co-chairing the Girlfriends Evening; to Dana Horwood and Deb Sheinbaum for graciously providing their homes as venues for Federation events; to **Debbie Strub** for co-chairing Women's Division with Jo-Ann Pomerantz; to **Jo-Ann Pomerantz**, for serving as Women's Division for a third year; to **Sandi Fuss and Liz Tick** for their continued commitment in co-chairing of Top Gifts Women's Division - Top Gifts; and to **Shirley Molot** for providing mentorship to the younger women in our community and for her leadership as chair of the Lion of Judah Division and as Vice President, Financial Resource Development;

The Next Generation



The Next Generation: from left to right, Jocelyn Katz, Arlene Leibtag, Lila Strub, Amy Katz Martin, Cindy Kam, Debbie Strub and Sandy Seigel. Front row, from left to right, Debbie Sheinbaum, Andrea Molot and Cindy Greenbaum Smyth.



Jo-Ann Pomerantz



Debbie Strub & Lisa Morris



Elaine Levine & Michele Finkelstein

Hamilton's Latest Lions of Judah

Serving Well Beyond The Call Of Duty



Many among the generation of women who gathered at the Sheinbaum/Kahn home have served as Women's Division chairs in years past, but Sandi Fuss and Liz Tick have continued to head up Top Gifts long after their peers have moved on to other interests. The two received special recognition during the evening by Shirley Molot, who called them, "the most unwavering, reliable, stable, unflappable and dedicated volunteers in our community", and praised them for setting a "new standard for all of us." Sandi and Liz share many interests and passions, including Hadasah WIZO, the JNF, Israel Bonds, Beth Tikvah, their synagogues, the Art Gallery and... their joint grandchildren, Avery Rose and Lily.



Shirley Molot "pinning" Batia Phillips with her Lion of Judah pin



Dana Horwood



Sandi Seigel



Gloria Wasserman

The Lion of Judah pin is a dramatic reminder that each woman can make a significant difference in the lives, vitality, and continuity of her community. Women who wear the Lion of Judah pin, a \$5,000 annual commitment to the UJA campaign, join over 15,000 women around the world that are part of the Lion of Judah program. Together, through caring and passion, women who wear the Lion of Judah pin are able to transform the concept of Tikum Olam from an abstract dream to a concrete reality.

UJA Federation is delighted to welcome **Dana Horwood, Sandi Seigel and Gloria Wasserman** who became 'Lions' this year. They join the ranks of their predecessors, who include **Barbara Goldblatt, Milli Gould, Cheryl Greenbaum, Faith Kaplan, Madeleine Levy, Anne Mandell, Shirley Molot, Eva Morris, Lori Morris, Batia Phillips, CeCe Schreiber, Rita Shapiro, Cecile Steinberg, Isabel Strub, Anna Taylor, Liz Tick and Sasha Weisz.**

UJA Federation

MOVING MONEY WITHOUT BANKS

By Don Fenton, Director, Communications
September 30, 2006

Providing foreign exchange for companies used to be the exclusive domain of the banks, but specialist firms like Canadian-based Custom House are increasingly grabbing a share of a market worth billions of dollars a year.

According to an article on Reuters news (July 25, 2006) "The incursion by non-bank specialists has really taken off in the last few years, helped by the launch of online foreign exchange trading such as Custom House's Multiple Payment Platform."

Therefore if you're relying on your local bank for assistance doing business in other countries, you may be getting short-changed.

As businesses increasingly go global, the success of any venture can often rest on getting the most favourable foreign exchange transaction rate. That's where specialist foreign exchange companies come in, through lower overheads and fewer branch offices than their banking competitors, savings in exchange rates are able to be passed directly onto the customer. Custom House exchanges billions of dollars in currency a year globally and is one of the largest independent foreign exchange companies in the world. They will customize a service that exactly meets your needs and integrates seamlessly with your current business practice. That's why business leaders and knowledgeable individuals worldwide trust Custom House.

INTERNATIONAL WIRE TRANSFERS

Custom House international wires are a safe and quick way to transfer funds anywhere in the world. Custom House Treasury operates 24/7 and our relationship with a global network of banks means fast, accurate transmission of your funds almost anywhere and beneficiary information is stored securely.

FOREIGN CURRENCY DRAFTS AND CHEQUES

A Custom House foreign currency draft means you can offer payment to your trading partners in their local currency. We offer convenience and negotiating power that can translate into a competitive advantage in tough foreign markets.

INTERNATIONAL RECEIPT OF FUNDS

A Custom House electronic transfer sends your funds directly to your bank accounts. For recurring receipts, our automated conversion of funds gives you maximum efficiency and better cash flow.

Custom House foreign currency accounts let you receive payments for automatic transfer into your accounts for immediate access to your funds without multiple account management.

ONLINE SERVICES FOR BUSINESS & INDIVIDUALS

Our award-winning online service lets you process payables and receivables in-house with real-time rates 24/7. We seamlessly integrate with leading accounting and order fulfillment programs to save you time and money.

FORWARD CONTRACTS

Because you are exposed to the fluctuations of the international currency market, Custom House lets you lock in a rate today for delivery in the future. With a Custom House forward contract you receive a guaranteed exchange rate for currency to be bought or sold in the future. We reduce the risk of foreign exchange fluctuations, protect your profits and allow accurate long term budget planning.

EXCHANGE RATE BIDDING PROGRAM

With an exchange rate bidding program, our trading specialists monitor international currency movements around the clock. We determine a target price with you and notify you when it has been reached and execute a transaction for you. This allows you to take advantage of market currency shifts in multiple time zones and markets.

PRIVATE CLIENT SERVICES

Custom House offers cost-effective, custom solutions for managing foreign currency payments for international loans and mortgages.

Not only do we offer competitive exchange rates, we also provide a secure global network, fully bonded trading specialists and international partner alliances for complementary services for your purchases.

MARKET INTELLIGENCE

We constantly monitor and analyse economic trends and shifts in real time to help you stay ahead of the competition.

Our complimentary World Market Update provides extensive analysis of the underlying trends and events affecting international currency markets.

OUTSOURCING SERVICES

For many of our corporate customers we provide a complete global payment and foreign exchange service for their clients.

Our outsourcing services can be a branded partnership agreement where you gain the benefits of the Custom House reputation in the industry, or a 'white label' agreement that lets you use our international infrastructure to power your internal processing.

At Custom House we work hard to understand your business
and create truly customized foreign exchange services.



**CUSTOM
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Brigitte Gabriel Delivers Powerful Message



From left to right, Liz Tick, Sandi Fuss, Jo-Ann Pomerantz,
Brigitte Gabriel, Larry Levin and Shirley Molot.

Author and journalist Brigitte Gabriel spoke on September 28th to a capacity audience at Temple Anshe Sholom. The program was organized by the UJA 2007 Campaign Cabinet as one of several mechanisms to encourage community support for the current Israel Emergency Campaign.

Ms. Gabriel's message was meant to serve as a wake up call to the West and to the Jewish community in particular of the growing threat of Islamic extremism. Given the circumstances of the Israel Emergency Campaign and the need to urgently raise cash to assist Israelis who lost their homes, employment and lives to Hezbollah attacks in Israel's northern communities, her message was painfully relevant.

Ms. Gabriel's electrifying and passionate address energized many in the audience, who felt that her presentation provided the best possible antidote to the apathy and sense of powerlessness that has often been a response to a perceived unstoppable phenomenon.

Ms. Gabriel recounted her unique journey of how she and her family, Lebanese Christians, struggled to survive during the Lebanese Civil War. Her school, the street and the Lebanese media, she said, were saturated with deep hatred for Israel and for Jews. She spoke about the destabilizing influence of Palestinian extremism on Lebanese society in the 1970s, touching on the Sabra and Shatila massacre, the blame for which she laid solely on the Phalangists, who she said were acting in retaliation for previous massacres conducted by Palestinian and Islamic extremists.

In tones bordering on reverence, she described her narrow escape across the border into Israel in search of medical care for her critically ill mother and the warmth with which they were received. She challenged the Lebanese or any other Islamic culture of being able to provide the same to a critically ill Israeli or Jew.

Ultimately, her presentation focused on two important points. It was very important for a Jewish audience to hear a rational Arab voice speaking so positively about Israel as a compassionate society that only seeks peace with its neighbors. She felt it equally important for the West in general and Jews in particular to not lose sight of the dangers of Islamic extremism, a danger she views as growing, relentless and violent.

Bob Hemberger

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UJA Federation



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Helping Our Children Stand Up To Hate

Each year, early November marks the return of Holocaust Education Week, when people of all ages come together in Hamilton to learn about the horrors of the Shoah from those who lived through it.

One of the most important messages we take away from this experience is that hating those who are different from ourselves, simply because society down a very dangerous path.

We are fortunate to be reminded of this lesson each year. But it should be seen as the beginning of something bigger. We have an opportunity, and an obligation, to continue the dialogue to help reinforce the message that hate is a cancer – especially to young people. One of the best places to undertake this kind of discussion is in the classroom.

The Canadian Jewish Congress Charities Committee has done just that. We created Choose Your Voice: Antisemitism in Canada, an educational program for students in grades 6, 7 and 8 that gives children the tools they need in order to find their voices in the face of hatred, and make the choice to become heroes instead of bystanders. The program, launched in Ontario last fall, is also designed to encourage young people to feel secure and proud to be who they are, no matter what their background.

Choose Your Voice was developed by CJC Charities in partnership with FAST – Fighting Antisemitism Together, a coalition of non-Jewish business leaders led by BMO President Tony Comper and his wife, Elizabeth. The program includes four lessons that explore the meaning and dangers of stereotyping, provide examples of racism and antisemitism in Canada from both a historic and modern perspective and ask students to think about what it means to be a hero in the face of hatred and bigotry. The goal of the program is to ensure students feel confident enough in themselves to do the right thing – to be a hero instead of a bystander, or worse, a perpetrator.

Choose Your Voice includes a moving DVD to support the lessons, and was created with the assistance of Ontario curriculum experts. The flexibility of the program makes it excellent for use on special days such as Yom HaShoah, Remembrance Day or the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, but is equally good for regular classroom use.

School boards in the Hamilton and Niagara regions, representing more than 20,000 students in grades 6 to 8, have supported the use of Choose Your Voice in their classrooms. Hamilton teachers are joining those from across the province, and in fact, across the country, who have discovered that this program can be a great jumping-off point for important classroom discussions on a sensitive issue.

Many teachers have adapted the program for use with students in both lower and higher grades, with great success. Teachers are reporting to us that students find the program very engaging, and as a result, they acquire a deeper understanding of the nature of bigotry and its effects. Our only wish is that teachers in every classroom in Hamilton, and better yet, across Canada, use this resource to help their students learn.

Unfortunately, the hatred that brought the Holocaust and other genocides to the world has not disappeared. With a meaningful tool like Choose Your Voice, we hope our children will find their way and choose a voice of tolerance.

I encourage you to ask the teachers at your children's schools to implement Choose Your Voice, which is available free from CJC Charities Committee. For more information on FAST and Choose Your Voice, visit the CJC Charities Committee Website at www.cjccc.ca.

Wendy Lampert is the National Director of Communications for Canadian Jewish Congress Charities Committee, and developed the Choose Your Voice resource.



Wendy Lampert

Pearl/Ahmed Dialogue Program Draws Large Crowd

After months of preparation, the "Hopeful Dialogue" event featuring Dr. Judea Pearl and Dr. Akbar Ahmed took place on November 12th. It appeared that Jews and Muslims were both minorities at the well-attended event that drew over 800 to listen and take part in a conversation between the featured guests.

Akbar Ahmed, a leading Islamic scholar born in Pakistan, joined Judea Pearl at Hamilton Place to lead a public dialogue about the divisions between Muslims and the West and between Jews and Muslims. Their discussions ranged from policy issues to theological perceptions to revelations about each group's deepest fears about the other. This personal yet public dialogue has travelled to twelve cities in the US, UK and Canada and continues to attempt to carve a path for mutual understanding between the two communities.

It was apparent that Dr. Pearl, whose son Daniel was murdered by terrorists in Pakistan and Dr. Ahmed, who heads the Islamic Studies Program at American University in Washington, have developed a warm and respectful personal relationship.

The program, organized by the Arab, Muslim and Jewish Dialogue Committee in Hamilton, was strongly supported by the Hamilton Spectator, which provided significant media exposure and a staff person to assist in logistics. Spectator editor, Dana Robbins, served as moderator, and Rabbi Bernard Baskin made introductory comments at a reception held prior to the event.

The full text of Rabbi Baskin's remarks are printed below.

"This extraordinary evening confronts each of us with a number of persistent and



Committee Members Ali Cheaib and Dr. Lorne Finkelstein flank Dr. Ahmed and Dr. Pearl

challenging questions. Let me mention some of them.

Can we as Canadians make space in our thinking and living for our essential differences? Can we learn to show respect for a language, a tradition and a sensibility different from our own? Can we see the image of God in the face of a stranger, especially if it is a different colour?

Can we who assert our belief in the one God of humanity remain silent, or stand aside, when innocent men and women are murdered for some alleged political, religious or ethnic cause?

Can we pause to appreciate the cultural and religious contributions, ideas and feelings of others -- indeed, even at times share in their pain, humiliation and resentment -- and discover to our surprise that their image of us is anything but our image of ourselves?

Can we forsake the misguided notion that we fulfil God's will by waging war against the so-called infidel or outsider, disregarding the Biblical heritage of Abraham that Jews, Christians and Muslims share together?

Can civilized society accept the ranting of a fanatic

who publicly proclaims his desire to completely annihilate a neighbouring country?

Can we learn the hard but necessary lessons of living together in mutual trust and dignity in our own community rather than in bringing the complex issues of the Middle East, Africa and Asia into our midst?

These problems will not be resolved in Hamilton, Ontario.

In her recent widely acclaimed book that she calls The Great Transformation, Karen Armstrong makes clear that the founders of all the great religions - Buddha, Moses, Jesus and Muhammad - recoiled from the violence of their times. They called for an abandonment of selfishness and reached out for a spirituality of compassion.

Finally, we must be convinced that moderation, goodwill and good sense can bring harmony and understanding, rather than hatred, violence and devastation.

We have been granted one world in which to live together. Let us protect it, enhance it, enjoy it and God forbid not destroy it.



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UJA Federation

"Eyes To Zion" A Breathtaking Event

On Saturday, November 4th, a small group of Jewish leaders were invited to attend "Eyes to Zion 5," an event taking place at the New Covenant Church in Brantford.

Barry Bender and Norma Jack, Monte and Madeleine Levy, Gerry Fisher and Anna-Rae Fishman, Meir and Necha Kaidar were all delighted with the invitation. They just didn't fully appreciate what the invitation was about.

"Eyes to Zion 5" was promoted as the most recent in a series of annual events organized as a "celebration of Zion; its land, its people and its G-d." The event itself was a spectacular evening of original music, song and dance, presented with extraordinary productions values, artistic sensitivity and creativity and a genuine affection for the land and people of Israel.

In both his opening and closing remarks, Reverend John Tweedie, Pastor of New Covenant Church and President of Christians for Israel, made special mention of



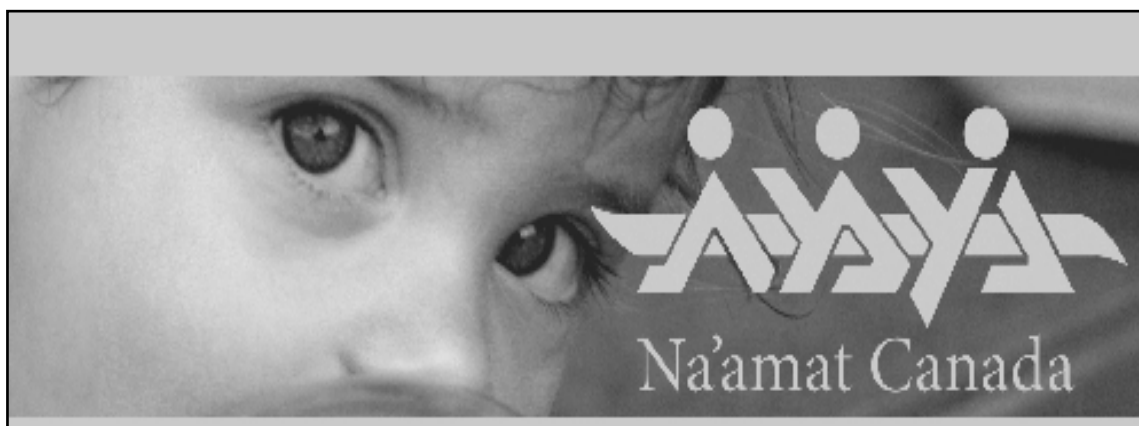
Pictured above, from l to r are David Somer, Gerry Fisher Meir Kadar, Reverend John Tweedie, Monte Levy, Anna Rae Fishman, Madeleine Levy, Necha Kadar, Norma Jack and Barry Bender

the presence of the Jewish guests. All were made to feel welcome, especially by the provision of kosher desserts and the front row seating.

Reverend David Cummings of the Hamilton Christian Fellowship was responsible for the invitations. Reverend Cummings is a close friend to many in the Ham-

ilton Jewish community. He is also the proud father of both Rebecah and Dan Cummings, two of the evening's featured performers.

More than 400 people attended the celebration. All were left practically breathless by the high energy performances and the profound message of affection for Israel.



On July 20th, a Katyusha missile fell outside a Na'amat Daycare Centre in Carmiel, Israel, causing catastrophic destruction.

Your donations to Na'amat Canada's Emergency Campaign have helped keep Israeli daycare children safe. Thank you, Canada! Rebuilding has now begun but funds are still urgently needed...

**Think Israel Think Na'amat and make your pledge today.
Wishing you peace and joy this Rosh Hashanah.**

Na'amat Canada Toll Free: 1.888.278.0792 E-Mail: naamat@total.net Web: www.naamat.com



Jewish Social Services

JSS Partners With CNIB

Hamilton Jewish Social Services is partnering with the CNIB by offering computer classes for the visually impaired. Computers with special software have been set up to help people with impaired vision to learn computer skills. This program takes place at 30 King St East in Dundas. If you know of someone who might be interested in these classes please call Carol Krames at 905-627-9922 or email carolkramesjss@hotmail.com.

More JSS Programs

Ceramics classes take place on Monday afternoons with Suzanne Goldflus. No charge.

Literacy and ESL classes take place from Monday to Thursday mornings.

Chai Choir – Rehearsals take place Tuesday mornings. Call Goldie Robbins at 905-529-1787 for more information.

Large Screen Computer Classes Tuesday and Wednesday from 2:30 to 4:00 pm

Scrapbooking on Wednesday mornings

Gentle Gym Exercise on Tuesdays from 1 to 2 PM.

Share Your Favourite Recipe

Do you have a favorite recipe or recipes you would like to share? The Hamilton Jewish Social Services has a committee of women who love to cook and want to make a cookbook for Hamilton. The profits will go towards the Hamilton Kosher Food Bank. We will be putting the recipes together and categorizing them, yom tov, shabbos, vegetable dishes and cakes. Send your recipe(s) to cookbookjss@hotmail.com or mail them to Jewish Social Services, 30 King St. E Dundas, Ontario L9H 5G6. The committee could use help with publicity and financial donations that will go towards publishing costs. This project is a double mitzvah. Not only will it raise money for the Food Bank – It will ensure that our parents and grandparents recipes are shared with future generations.

Please Support The Kosher Food Bank

Hamilton has the highest rate of poverty in the Jewish community in all of Canada. Our community's poor may not be visible, but they are there. With Chanukah fast approaching there will be many families who do not have enough money for food to celebrate the holiday. Every donation helps, either food or cash. Please mail a cheque or drop off food at our office, at the shuls, or Hamilton Kosher.



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905-526-7527
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UJA Federation

Looking Back on York Street In Its Prime

BY
RON BERENBAUM

York Street existed as early as 1800 as a military route connecting Hamilton to Toronto (York). By the nineteen-twenties, the portion of the roadway approaching Hamilton was flanked by dilapidated houses and unsightly gravel pits.

In 1927, Hamilton's perspicacious Thomas B. McQueen spearheaded efforts to improve the tawdry, decrepit western entrance into the city. The result was a picturesque two kilometre boulevard running from highway six to Dundurn Castle.

With magnificent views of Burlington Bay, Cootes Paradise and the Royal Botanical Gardens, the High Level Bridge entrance to Hamilton was one of the most scenic approaches to any city in the world.

Unfortunately, as one passed Dundurn Castle and travelled towards the city centre, the scenery changed from beautiful to mundane. The two lane York Street artery from Dundurn Street to the downtown was lined with a variety of small, mostly "mom and pop" businesses. Grocery stores, tailor and clothing shops, second hand



York Street. Courtesy, Hamilton Public Library

and variety stores, auto parts and service stations, butchers, barbers, cake shops, delicatessens, etc. catered to a somewhat lower income clientele many of whom were recent arrivals to the country. In many cases, the store owners lived in the residence above their business.

Many ethnic groups could be found on York Street. In particular, it was the communal and business centre for the Hamilton Jewish community. Long time Hamilton resident

Shannon Shapiro has listed over eighty Jewish business owners on York Street around the time of the Second World War.

Bella (Zucker) Muller's family owned a York Street deli. She recalls, "It was like a community centre. People came to shop and exchange news and information. Card games often involving a zany cast of characters were a frequent occurrence."

Bob Guest, whose parents operated Guest Meat Market for over thirty years

on York Street, remembers the ethnic mix of the area.

"For the most part, Jews, Italians, Afro-Canadians, Native-Canadians and other minorities got along well. Almost everyone was on a first name basis."

In the nineteen fifties, city politicians concluded that York Street was an embarrassment that had to be eradicated. In 1957, York Street was widened and in 1961 a median installed. In 1967, a York Street "renewal plan" was given quali-

fied approval by city council.

Properties on both sides of the street were expropriated and the roadway widened to six lanes. Fanciful schemes to bring new businesses into the area were implemented.

The expropriation of properties created disruption, antagonism, hostility, and in some cases economic hardship among the York Street residents and business owners.

When the project was completed, a vibrant business and residential community had been replaced by a small number of sterile institutional-type buildings intersected by a noisy, concrete, polluting automobile corridor.

Sigmund Goldberg, whose family owned a clothing business on York Street says,

"The demolition of the York Street business community was the beginning of the end for downtown Hamilton."

This article was reprinted from Hamilton Vanished - Part Two, published by North Shore Publishing Inc.

Happy Chanukah to the Hamilton Jewish Community from Ten Star Financial Services

Bukhman Insurance Agency Merged with Ten Star

In September, 2005 after 26 years of being the Canadian Success Story, Bukhman Insurance Agency has merged its operation with Ten Star Financial Brokers. Now the merging process is over and I have now retired. Long overdue, but what a ride it has been! It took a lot of time and effort to find a proper successor and now it gives me great pleasure and peace of mind knowing that I have passed the baton into the right hands.



As of now, our many clients in the Hamilton, Toronto and the US will be serviced by one of the most dynamic, reputable and stable financial service organizations operating in Canada for over a quarter of a century, with 26 branches and over 1000 independent agents from coast to coast. As a special convenience, TEN STAR's Head office is located right here on our doorsteps, in Waterdown, Ontario. We are just a phone call away!

I am deeply thankful to those of you who have supported my business over the years. I hope that my past professional involvement over the last 27 years and will still be positively affecting likes of thousands people for years ahead.

I also hope, that you will immensely benefit from the professional Expertise and Services offered by TEN STAR.

Happy Chanukah and Best Wishes for the incoming New Year!

ALEC BUKHMAN, M.Sc. P.Eng. CFP, CLU, ChFC, CFSB
President - Bukhman Insurance Agency



I have had the great pleasure of knowing Alec Bukhman for the past twenty six years. I feel fortunate indeed to be associated with someone of Alec's calibre. His dedication to providing the best insurance products with expert estate planning advice, as well as his professional integrity, has been an inspiration to many advisors.

As of now, this tradition will be continued by Ten Star. Alec has personally selected three exceptional advisors to provide the high quality of service his clients used to get. We hope they will also benefit from the broad range of financial services and products we are proud to offer. Just ask for it!

Ten Star Financial Services is a diversified group of Financial Service companies. Ten Star has approximately one thousand independent financial advisors and twenty six branches across the country. Ten Star, through its various companies, provides life insurance and estate planning advice, mutual funds and other investments, property and casualty insurance, employee group benefits and actuarial services. We look forward to being of service to you!

Happy Chanukah to all of you!

DAVID BAIRD, C.L.U., A.I.C., CFP
President - Ten Star Group of Companies



Advertising Feature

Locke Street Shop Offers Chanukah Ware

About a year ago, Isabella Sorce-Vergamini, the proprietor of Precious Things 'N More, a little shop on Locke Street, was the recipient of a stunning revelation from her ailing mother. Her maternal great grandparents, her mother told her, were Jews.



Isabella Sorce Vergamini at Precious Things 'N More

During World War II, her great grandfather, who was living in New York at that time, decided to return to his home in Italy to check on the safety of his mother. Since he was a Jew, he was captured and murdered, leaving his widow to raise 18 children, all of whom survived the remaining war years by going into hiding. Although the details remain sketchy, Isabella said that over the ensuing years, the surviving members of the family converted to Christianity.

Her mother, raised as a Catholic in Italy, revealed this secret about a year ago, shortly after she was diagnosed with a form of skin cancer that her doctor told her was most often seen in Jews.

Since that day, Isabella has been driven to discover more about her roots and find a way to honour the memory of her great grandfather.

"I can't imagine what he must have gone through, never having had an opportunity to live his life with his children."

And then she discovered the Spode Judaica Collection, fine bone china produced in the UK. Possessed by a "gut feeling" and strongly attracted to the collection, Isabella has dedicated a corner of her store to items from the collection.

"We were robbed from the culture. I can't bring my great grandfather back but I can keep his memory alive for me. When I look at the blue and white colours it's a renewal for me. Every time I look at them it fills a void. I feel like I'm part of a community that I never knew I was part of."

The Spode Judaica Collection includes a number of items made of fine bone china in a distinctive blue and white motif, including menorahs, Shabbat candles, Kiddush cups, Seder plates, and challah trays with matching knives and other items.

Her charming shop features many other unique items, including Vietri china from Italy, Pandora Jewellery from Denmark, gourmet tea and other culinary items.

Isabella welcomes members of the Jewish community to stop in and view the collection. In addition to the Hannukah menorahs, Precious Things 'N More is also selling attractive Hannukah greeting cards.

Precious Things 'N More
163 Locke St. S.
905-522-1709
www.preciousthingsnmore.com



Welcome To Westdale's The Village Green "Come For The Experience"

The Jewish community has been abuzz of late, with rave reviews about The Village Green, a kosher bistro combined with flower and gift shop, that opened its doors for business last September.

Its proprietors, Gwen Gordon, a local kosher caterer and Jeannie Lavin, a floral arranger, had collaborated on several private parties before it dawned on them: Why not formalize things and go into business together? Gwen's daughter Allison was studying culinary arts at George Brown college, and Gwen felt that she was ready to expand her catering business.



Jeannie Lavin and Gwen Gordon from The Village Green

When The Scarlet Runner building on King Street in Westdale went up for sale last Spring, they knew they had found the perfect location. With Jeannie's husband, a contractor, overseeing renovations, the building was ready in record time.

The Village Green Bistro, which is located on the second floor of the attractive three-storey building, features daily specials that include different ethnic styles such as Chinese, Italian, Moroccan and traditional Jewish food, all served up in large portions. The Bistro is particularly popular with students, who enjoy the reasonably priced hearty meals and the warm and welcoming atmosphere. The Bistro also features an extensive take out section, catering to busy couples and families who don't always find the time to prepare meals.

The Village Green & Co., a unique flower and gift shop, is located on the first floor of the store. The shop specializes in flowers for all occasions. Whether it is English Garden, French Country or Vintage, Jeannie Lavin's arrangements and gift baskets are sure to please. Her in-store designer, Robert, shares her passion and together they make a dynamic team. Jeannie and Robert will take care of all your floral needs for weddings, bar and bat mitzvahs or any other occasion. The shop also features unusual giftware and luxury bath products designed by Nougat, an exclusive British line.

Both Gwen and Jeannie are delighted by the overwhelming positive response to their enterprise. Among the many positive comments is one that they've heard over and over again: "It's an experience." The Village Green is open for business. Come enjoy the experience.

The Village Green Bistro
Gwen Gordon, Proprietor
905-296-6300

The Village Green & Co.
Jeannie Lavin, Proprietor
905-296-6270

Hours
Monday to Friday
9:00 am – 6:00 pm
Sundays

THE VILLAGE GREEN
& Company

Advertising Feature

HomeWork: Detail Driven Décor

"The Boys" from HomeWork are ready to solve your design dilemmas!! Steve Akins and Gordon Cornish, with the assistance of Sheila Levitt are decorating the areas finest interiors. Everything from whole-house

décor to picking better colour choices for a room, Steve and Gordon are bringing a lot of urban flare to some simply traditional spaces!



Working with some of the area's most talented trades people, 'Team HomeWork' can truly customize your space! Bringing everything from flooring to custom cabinetry and custom window treatments!

"We really appreciate our Client's involvement in the process. Our Clients are always the ones who are in charge. Timing, budget and lifestyle are such huge factors in this process, we would be irresponsible not to consider them in the equation."

The process begins with a "Consultation" where we try to interpret the Client's needs, with the above factors being taken into consideration. People lead much different lives today than they did even ten years ago!



While we all appreciate the charm and character associated with older homes, they quite often do not tolerate today's lifestyles. We feel fortunate when asked to replicate the warmth, while updating to a more livable environment!

From the initial Consultation, we work hard to gather samples of paint, fabric, flooring, etc and put together a "story board" which better illustrates our ideas than a verbal discussion. These boards become the property of the homeowner and serve as a 'roadmap' for the final destination. The homeowner can now shop with confidence that they are purchasing items that will ultimately bring them to the desired look. They no longer need to worry about making costly mistakes! It's simple, really, and the final result is a much more unified, sensible look that inevitably SAVED the homeowner money.



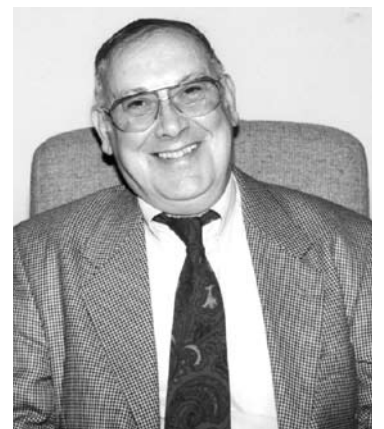
HomeWork Ltd.
987 King Street West
Hamilton, Ontario, CA
L8S 1L1
Tel: 905-521-1734 Fax: 905-521-9192

**Aaron Shiffman To Receive Lifetime Achievement Award**

The Hamilton Hebrew Academy is proud to announce that Mr. Aaron Shiffman will be honoured with A Lifetime Achievement Award at the annual Tribute Dinner to be held on April 22, 2007.

In so many ways, this understated yet towering figure has come to personify almost all aspects of the Hamilton Jewish community. Mr. Shiffman has held influential leadership positions in several major Jewish organisations in the community. At the Hamilton Hebrew Academy, he has served with selfless dedication as Executive Director for over 25 years. He also acts as the Executive Director of Adas Israel Synagogue and ritual Gabbai. In addition, Shiffman serves as Director of the United Hebrew Memorial Chapel, Chairman of the Hamilton Chevre Kadisha, and Treasurer of the Grand Order of Israel. He also plays a pivotal role at Shalom Village as a consultant overseeing Kashrut Standards and providing a listening ear and familiar face to local seniors.

The attributes of honour and integrity are the embodiment of this iconic Hamiltonian. His calming demeanour and empathetic words have provided comfort and solace to countless bereaved families yearning for consolation during their darkest of hours. His kindness and generosity coupled with his keen insight and dry wit have earned him many admirers and close friends. In addition, he is commonly regarded by many as a local historian who, with ease, can



Aaron Shiffman

cull from the early recesses of his memory remembering details of generations long passed on.

Despite his many talents and accomplishments, Aaron is a man of great humility who seeks to avoid the spotlight whenever possible. When approached to be the honoree at the upcoming tribute dinner, he expressed deep personal hesitations but immediately added that if his acceptance were to benefit the children of the community he would readily agree.

We can surely attest that Mr. Aaron Shiffman's lifetime of accomplishments have not only benefited the children of our community but have impacted upon all demographics from all walks of life. As the Hamilton Hebrew Academy celebrates its 44th year, it is honoured to invite you to this historic evening. If you would like to obtain an invitation or participate on the Dinner Committee please call 905.528.0330 or email dinner@hamiltonhebrewacademy.org.

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The Jewish Community Centre Pages

Upcoming Programs

Sunday, December 10, 2007
CHANUKAH PARTY @ the JCC

12:00 noon – 2:00 pm
 Details to follow

Saturday, January 20, 2007

Jazz series at the JCC

Fern Lindzon Trio at 8:00 pm
 Tickets: JCC Members - \$10; Non-Members - \$12
 Details to follow

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

JCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

AT THE JCC

Sunday, January 28, 2007

JNF TU B'SHVAT CELEBRATION

In conjunction with
JCC COMMUNITY WIDE BRUNCH
 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm

Thursday, February 1, 2007

The Herb & Cece Schreiber Foundation
 presents its annual

BEN MEYER LECTURE

featuring

Dr. Adolfo Roitman

Dr. Roitman is an expert on the Dead Sea Scrolls, and the director and curator of the Shrine of the Book at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem. He will speak on the topic: "Envisaging the Temple: The Temple of Jerusalem and the Dead Sea Scroll Community"
 Dinner 6pm, Lecture 8pm - at the JCC

Saturday, February 10, 2007

A BIG PARTY AT THE JCC

Dance to the sounds of world beat band Zarabunda
 19 and above only
 Details to follow

Tuesday, February 13, 2007

NEW PROGRAM

Morris Black Debate For High School Students at the JCC

Details to follow

Sunday, February 25, 2007

Morris Black Public Speaking Contest

Grades 4-9 at the JCC
 Topics will be released in January 2007
 Details to follow

Sunday, March 4, 2007

Purim Carnival at the JCC

12pm - 2pm
 Details to follow

Saturday, March 24, 2007

Jazz Series at the JCC

Henry Strong Quartet at 8pm
 Tickets: JCC Members - \$10; Non-Members \$12

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE INVOLVED IN THE PLANNING OF ANY OF THESE PROGRAMS, PLEASE CALL

Were You There?

Ben Meyer Lecture



Over 50 people attended the Ben Meyer Lecture on September 17 to welcome Dr. William Seidelman back to Hamilton before moving to Israel. Dr. Seidelman gave a provocative presentation on the topic, "CAN GOOD COME FROM EVIL? The Ethical Legacy of Medicine during the 3rd Reich". Gwen Gordon's "Village Green" catered the beautiful dinner and desserts for this successful program.

JCC Jazz Series



The JCC lounge was transformed into a candle lit environment that hosted over 90 adults to listen to the sounds of first evening of the music series with Gary Santucci Trio "Me and My Guitars". The Village Green provided decadent pastries along with Starbucks coffee, wine and beer. The event was completely sold out. THERE ARE A FEW TICKETS LEFT FOR THE NEXT THREE EVENINGS IN THE SERIES. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BUY A TICKET PLEASE CALL THE JCC AT 905-648-0605. TICKET PRICES: MEMBERS - \$10; NON-MEMBERS \$12

Biddy Basketball

The inaugural year of the JCC's Biddy Basketball program has been a huge success. With over twenty students, it is the fastest growing after-school activity for kids aged 6 – 8. Coaches Tzach and Jen Elnkave, Trudy Shore, Larry Szpirglas and Gabriel Theodore lead students in drills, exercises, and games aimed at improving skills at basketball and having a good time. The program teaches teamwork and the importance of daily practice in a fun and non-competitive environment. Kosher snacks and drinks are provided. Spaces are still available; call the JCC Front Desk to register or drop in Wednesdays at 4:30 pm to observe. A new season will begin in January. More Information to follow.

The Jewish Community Centre Pages

CAMP KADIMAH WINTER CAMP AT THE JCC

December 27, 28, 29, January 2, 3, 4, 5
9:00 am to 3:00 pm



AGES 2 - 10 years

Members: \$25/day or \$65/week 1; \$90/week 2
Non Members: \$30/day or \$80/week 1; \$110/week 2

AGES 11-14 LIT Program

Members \$12/day; Non Members \$16/day



PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

For more information call the JCC at 905-648-0605.

NEW TENNIS PROGRAM FOR 4-6 YEAR OLDS IN THE BUBBLE with MINI NETS & SOFT BALLS

Session 1 – January 14 – Mar 4, 2007 \$70
Session 2 – April 22 – June 10, 2007 \$60
(NO CLASSES MAY 20, 2007)

6 year olds	10:00am – 10:30am	min. 6 per class
5 year olds	10:30am – 11:00am	min. 6 per class
4 year olds	11:00am – 11:30am	min. 6 per class

REGISTRATION CLOSING JANUARY 5, 2007

(MINIMUM PARTICIPATION OR CLASSES WILL BE CANCELLED)

CAMP KADIMAH WANTS... AN ENTHUSIASTIC AND RELIABLE WINTER CAMP DIRECTOR

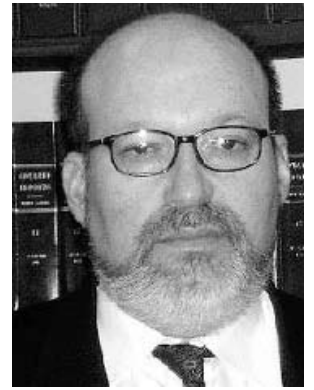
MUST BE AVAILABLE
FROM MID-DECEMBER TO
JANUARY 5, 2007. FOR
MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT
ANNIE SHINEHOFT AT
905-648-0605

THE JCC YOM HASHOAH COMMITTEE

IS SEEKING STUDENTS TO
JOIN THE COMMITTEE
VOLUNTEER HOURS WILL BE
GIVEN TO THOSE THAT PAR-
TICIPATE. IF YOU ARE
INTERESTED PLEASE CALL
ANNIE SHINEHOFT AT THE JCC
at 905-648-0605

President's Message

This has been quite a year for the JCC membership and the community. About a year ago, the future looked bleak. We had just finished repairing a leaky roof, and we were effectively shut down due to concerns for the safety of the users of our facility. I am proud of the terrific efforts by our staff and volunteers to get ourselves back on track. By the beginning of this calendar year, we have made the necessary repairs to make our facility safe, and have done so, without compromising our programs and operations.



Howard Eisenberg

As a community, in spite of these challenges, we managed to hang together and ensure that this was done in a positive manner. Because of this approach we were able to provide a myriad of qualitative programming, thanks to the enormous efforts of our volunteers and our staff. We were able to develop an excellent program year which manifested itself through our camping services program, major community events such as Yom Ha'atzmaut, the Lag Ba'Omer picnic, summer barbeque, Yom Hashoah commemoration, Sunday Brunches and fundays, tennis and many other activities.

Challenges create opportunities. An accelerated collaborative effort of JCC and Federation leadership in developing a community planning process to evaluate the needs, interests and programming wants of our community, and to address the question of the adequacy and effectiveness of the current facility, is ongoing.

The JCC Annual General Meeting is to be held January 24th, 2007. By that time I am hopeful that the initial results of the community planning process, the focus meetings which have been convened and others which are still to take place, the development and implementation of a community wide survey to allow all members of our community the opportunity for input, meetings with senior leadership, and more input from our national consultants from United Jewish Communities and the Jewish Community Centres Association, will have taken place and some direction provided which will allow us all to fashion a plan for the future of the JCC programming, services and facility.

It is essential to point out that this process is viewed by community leadership as an initial attempt to look at issues as a community and to develop community consensus. Other communal institutions and processes will also undergo some scrutiny as they should to ensure a rational, effective and efficient use of our community resources which one hopes is responsive to community needs.

On behalf of the JCC Board of Directors I wish to thank Federation leadership for its continued support to maintain the JCC, and its collaborative efforts to create a planning model which should help us in creating a sustainable future for our community.

We urge all to join the JCC as members, not just as users of specific programs, to help sustain the momentum which has occurred and because the only way Jewish institutions can be sustainable is to support them now so that they will be around and viable for the future.

We welcome all to the Annual General Meeting to hear first hand the results of the planning efforts mentioned above, and to hear of the tremendous work done and to be done to provide responsive programs for our community. I look forward to seeing each and every one of you.

Howard Eisenberg, JCC President

JCC TRIBUTE CARDS

Mazal Tov

MARK GOULD (Son's Bar Mitzvah): JCC Board of Directors; Martin and Debbie Strub; Larry and Fern Szpirglas

Best Wishes

FRANK JUNGER: Les and Lea Lowinger; **JUDY BENNETT:** Rochelle Waxman; **LORRAINE COHEN:** Rochelle Waxman, Larry and Fern Szpirglas, JCC Board of Directors; **BARNETT FAMILY:** Larry and Fern Szpirglas; **KAPLAN FAMILY:** Rochelle Waxman. **ARCHIE LIEBERMAN:** Bob and Bonnie Otto.

JCC Youth Maccabi Games Fund

GAYLE FRIENDLY: Lynda and Jerry Bromstein and Family

JCC Maccabi Games

Get into the Maccabi Spirit Hamilton

The JCC Maccabi Games are competitions for Jewish teens 13 to 16 years of age as of August 1, 2007

Team Sports: Soccer, volleyball (girls), in-line hockey, baseball (boys), softball (girls), basketball

Individual Competitions: Tennis, golf, track field, karate, table tennis, dance, gymnastics, swimming, art, bowling, chess

Be a part of the Hamilton delegation in
Houston, Texas, August 5 - 10, 2007

The first meeting for next year's games will be on
Sunday, December 17, 2006 at 11:00 am
at the JCC, 1030 Lower Lions Club Rd. Ancaster 905-648-0605

If you have any interest in participating in any of these activities or if you just want to find out more about the games we urge you to attend. Teams will be formed at this time. We need enthusiastic teens to be a part of a team and represent our JCC. Get involved. You will be glad you did. It will be an experience of a lifetime. The Maccabi Games - you can't appreciate what you're missing until you experience them!

The Maccabi Experience.... Priceless.

Shalom Village



SHALOM VILLAGE TRIBUTE CARDS

Call 905-529-1613, ext 265

In Memory Of

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Get Well

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Happy Birthday

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Mazel Tov

ARTHUR WEISZ: Sheila & David Burman. **DR. & MRS. RICHARD ROSSMAN:** Ron & Miriam Davidson. **MR. & MRS. LABOL LEVY:** Ray Rosenberg. **GWEN & MICHAEL SHERMAN:** Ruth, Harold, Miriam, Sarah Margles. **SARA & HARRY GORMAN:** Freda & Seymour Rosenfeld. **HART & BROOKIE ROBBINS:** Evelyn & Lew Ross. **MR. & MRS. JEFFRESS:** Sadie Feldman & Family. **SAMIETH & MAX MINTZ:** Lotti & David Redner. **MR. & Mrs. NORMAN LEVITT:** Sally Lax, Bert Frankel, Edie Rochkin. **SKYELER POLLACK:** Marilyn & Al Foreman & Family. **MARGARET & HARRY KELMAN:** David & Lotti Redner. **KATHERINE & PAUL MANLEY:** David & Lotti Redner. **WILLIAM MORRIS:** Dottie & Ernie Mason

Thank You

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Hannukah Hustle Raises Funds For Shalom Village Fitness Centre



Theresa Rosenfeld, Edna Smith and Minna Loewith take a well deserved break after completing the 5k portion of the Hannukah Hustle at Shalom Village. Close to 400 runners, walkers and supporters joined ESPN's Dan Shulman on a crisp autumn morning to celebrate fitness and raise funds to support the Club Fitness Centre at Shalom Village.

Hospice Care at Shalom Village Living life to its end: A.T.H.O.M.E. at Shalom Village

Surrounded by those who you know and love and those



PAT MORDEN

who have the skills, compassion and knowledge to make the end of their days comfortable and comforted is the Shalom Village experience. Since its inception Shalom Village has embraced this model of caring which is called hospice care.

In fact our A.T.H.O.M.E. approach mandates that Shalom Village is a home where each resident can live with dignity and comfort – that is supportive of them and their extended family and friends. I am sure that many of you have seen the intensive caring that happens each day in the lives of those living at Shalom Village regardless of the proximity of the end of their life. It takes a particular individual to deliver this type of service day in and day out. We are truly blessed with many such professional and committed staff members at Shalom Village.

In a unique partnership with the VON the professional team at Shalom Village has developed an in-depth hospice/palliative care education program that is being offered at Shalom Village. This program has been designed to place the best of end of life care information within the context of Judaism. Sixteen members of the Shalom Village staff and volunteer team, joined by other interested volunteers from the community have dedicated themselves to enhancing our Shalom Village hospice care program. This group of pioneers has chosen to participate in this intensive eight week education program. These committed individuals will then use this knowledge to be "in-house" resource persons, leading our team in providing care and services at the end of life that reflect the true wishes of the individual and the best professional practices that are available – both medically, psychologically and spiritually. Leadership for this initiative is being provided by Rabbi Aaron Selevan, Michelle Draper, MSW, Executive Coach Levy Long Term Care and Cathy McDowell, RN, Volunteer Coordinator. Our staff physician, Dr. Alan Taniguchi's leadership in palliative care is recognized throughout the city and we are fortunate to have his expertise on our team. In the near future we will offer the opportunity to participate in this educational program to other Jewish groups who may find this skill and knowledge helpful in their community visits or roles.

Funds received from "In Memory" cards and tributes made to Shalom Village are used to support hospice care A.T.H.O.M.E. at Shalom Village. This includes our educational initiatives as well providing added comfort and staffing resources to meet our resident's needs at end of life. We continue to be grateful to our staff and volunteers who continue to seek new and better ways to help our residents and to those who through their donations make that happen. If you would be interested in joining our hospice care volunteer team please call Shalom Village and speak with Cathy McDowell.

Once again Shalom Village leads the way in finding what is possible when you call Shalom Village home.

Send Shalom Village Tribute Cards for acknowledging life cycles and milestones ~ birthday, anniversary, bar and bat mitzvah, get well, special occasion and memorial cards are available. Channukah cards are also available for \$5 each.

.When a loved one passes away, honour their memory by having memorial donations made to Shalom Village in lieu of flowers.

Just send your list to Kathleen@shalomvillage.on.ca or call (905) 529-1513 ext. 265

TU BI'SHEVAT AND THE JEWISH NATIONAL FUND



Tu Bi'Shevat is February 3rd, 2007

To celebrate, The Jewish National Fund has something for EVERYONE!!!
So, hold these dates!

January 28, 2007

Our 2nd annual

JNF Tu Bi'Shevat Children's Festival

featuring food, prizes, games, puzzles and other activities – fun for parents too!!



January 28 - 31, 2007

Our annual

JNF Tu Bi'Shevat Telethons

Here's your opportunity to plant a tree (or more) in Israel – help JNF replant, restore and rehabilitate the forests that were destroyed in the conflict with Hezbollah this past summer.



February 11, 2007

The Jewish National Fund of Hamilton is proud to present the first ever

Tu Bi'Shevat Culinary Cultural Experience

Don't miss this unique 5 course gourmet Dinner featuring Ariel Porat, Master Chef, Dan Hotels-Israel in collaboration with a local chef.

Dinner will be held at the elegant Beverly Golf and Country Club. Seating will be limited so reserve your space now!!



For more information about these events, please call our JNF office at 905 527-5516



Arts

Multicultural Collaboration Offers Message of Respect For Diversity

The recent international release of The Idan Raichel Project is bringing the work of an inspirational collective to a wide global audience. The Idan Raichel Project burst onto the Israeli music scene in 2002, changing the face of Israeli popular music and offering a message of love and tolerance that resonated strongly in a region of the world where the headlines are too often dominated by conflict.

With an entrancing blend of Ethiopian and Middle Eastern flavors coupled with sophisticated production techniques

and a spectacular live show, the Idan Raichel Project has become one of the most unexpected success stories in Israeli music today.

Idan Raichel, the architect of this unique recording project, is a 29-year old keyboardist, producer and composer from Kfar Saba. Born in 1977 to a family of Eastern European heritage, Idan started playing the accordion when he was 9 years old, although he did not come from a particularly musical family.

As a teenager, Idan started playing keyboards, and studied jazz in high school, which honed

his skills at improvisation and working with other musicians. At 18 Idan was conscripted into the Israeli army. It was in this military setting that Idan developed essential skills that would prove essential later in life. Rather than heading to the front lines Idan joined the Army rock band and toured military bases performing covers of Israeli and European pop hits. As the musical director of the group, he became adept at arrangements and producing live shows.

After he was discharged Idan started working as a counselor at a boarding school for immigrants

and troubled youth. Notably, the school was filled with young people from Ethiopia who were part of Israel's growing community of Ethiopian Jews. It was here that Idan first started getting familiar with Ethiopian folk and pop music. While most of the young people in the school rejected their own cultural traditions in an effort to assimilate into mainstream Israeli society, a small core of Ethiopian teenagers remained fans of Ethiopian music.

"I started to hear lots of cassettes from Addis Ababa. Village music, like Ethiopian pop and reggae, or the native village songs," says Raichel. "I noticed that immigrants from the Ethiopian community changed their names when they got to Israel. They try to assimilate into Western culture and don't keep their roots."

He wanted these kids to "remember that they like hip-hop but they are not from Harlem, they like reggae but they are not Bob Marley. The Ethiopians have a great culture that should be cherished."

Idan started going to Ethiopian bars and clubs in downtown Tel Aviv. It was like entering another world, a country within a country that remains a secret from most Israelis. As his connections to the community deepened, Idan began attending Ethiopian synagogues, weddings and other ceremonies, and he began to learn more about Ethiopian music and culture.

Meanwhile, Idan had become a successful backup musician and recording session player for some of Israel's most popular singers. After a few years of helping others gain success and notoriety, Idan decided it was time to pursue a project that reflected his musical ideals, and he began working on a demo recording in a small studio he set up in the basement of his parent's home in Kfar Saba. He thought it would



Idan Raichel

be a good idea to invite a number of different singers and musicians to participate, in order to better demonstrate his different styles and the ways in which he worked with a variety of artists.

Idan had long been fascinated with the diversity of Israel and sought to celebrate his appreciation and respect for different cultures through his music. Idan invited over 70 of his friends and colleagues from Israel's diverse music scene to participate in his recordings. He never expected his musical experiments to turn him into Israel's biggest musical phenomenon in recent memory.

The international release of The Idan Raichel Project's recordings promises to introduce a wide new audience to the electrifying work of this unique musical collective. The Project offers a new vision for how Israelis, their neighbours in this volatile region, and people all over the world, can cherish their individual cultural traditions, celebrate their differences and through respectful collaboration create new and inspiring expressions.

For more information go to <http://www.idanraichelproject.com>



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Local Events

Jewish Genetic Disease Screening comes to Hamilton

BY
DAVIDA SOBEL

Growing up in Hamilton, I lived in a predominantly Jewish neighbourhood. We all knew each other well and we were all pretty typical kids who came from typical families, except for one family. They were almost the typical family with four children, two boys and two girls. Please note, I said almost typical. Three out of their four children had some sort of ailment that had caused them to be developmentally slow. As kids, we didn't understand this. We heard rumours that the parents were actually cousins who had married and took their chances by having children. The eldest was vivacious, outgoing, and academically brilliant. However, the other three attended what was then called the "opportunity class" at school. They seemed to be ok. Sure they were slow, but we still played and talked to them. We were kids. What did we know? As time marched on, we noticed that the eldest son started to physically slow down. His speech started to slur, his head drooped, he couldn't control his muscles, and no one knew what was wrong with him. His mother took him from doctor to doctor, hoping to find out what was wrong and how could he be cured. Money was no object. Whatever it took, they would find a cure for their son. As the years went by, he suffered. He became weaker and weaker as he was no longer in control of his body. However, as his symptoms increased, they slowly invaded the bodies of his younger siblings. One by one, they each became symptomatic. What could this disease be that attacked these individuals in their teens? The truth is, three out of the four children in that family had Late Onset Tay-Sachs disease. Late Onset Tay-Sachs disease? I thought Tay-Sachs only affected young children. Tay-Sachs disease is fatal. How could this happen? There must be a mistake.

I remember as a young teenager lining up at a community wide Tay-Sachs screening program. Tay-Sachs is the most commonly known Jewish Genetic Disease, that we, the Jewish population have heard of. However, the screening program I attended

was in the late '70's. Things have changed. Research has become much more aggressive. Therefore, we now know about an increased number of genetic diseases that are common among Jews of Eastern European descent. Jews of Ashkenazi descent are at increased risk for passing down a gene for a tragic genetic disease to their children. We have skipped a generation and have not encouraged our children to be screened. Once again, Tay Sachs is rearing its ugly head and families are being affected by this heart breaking disease.

My husband Harold and I attended a conference in Texas last year. We were shocked at the number of Jewish genetic diseases that neither of us knew about. The carrier frequency for Gaucher Disease Type 1 is actually greater than that of Tay-Sachs. One in 14 Ashkenazi Jews will be carriers for Gaucher Disease, whereas one in 25 will be carriers for Tay-Sachs and Cystic Fibrosis.

Unfortunately, screening is not always available for these diseases, in that very few physicians have knowledge about the majority of Jewish Genetic diseases. These are not common everyday diseases, therefore, physicians will not normally screen for them when a patient presents with unusual symptomatology.

In the new year, a multidisciplinary panel of various health-care professionals who are experts on Jewish genetic diseases will be coming to Hamilton. This is your opportunity to learn about and be screened for eight Jewish genetic diseases. Our guest panel will not only provide you with information, but a question and answer period, along with the opportunity for screening for these diseases. I urge you to come out, be informed and be screened. We owe this to ourselves and to our children. You are required to bring your OHIP card with you for screening. You will not be charged for this service. Childcare will be made available by calling (905) 528-0121 ext 8 and leaving a message.

I look forward to coming home to Hamilton and seeing you at this important community wide event on Sunday, **February 11, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. at Temple Anshe Sholom, 215 Cline Avenue North.**

Carrier Testing for Persons of Jewish Ancestry

All around the world, certain ethnic groups have been identified as having an increased risk for certain genetic diseases. In individuals of Ashkenazi (Eastern European) Jewish descent, a number of such inherited diseases are known.

PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND A

Community Screening Information Session

1 pm, Sunday,
February 11, 2007

at Temple Anshe Sholom
215 Cline Avenue North, Hamilton

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. John Barranger

Department of Human Genetics, University of Pittsburgh
Director, Center for the Study and Treatment of Jewish Genetic Diseases

PROGRAMME

- Dr. Barranger will discuss the various Jewish genetic diseases.
- Question and answer period
- Refreshments (Kashrut Observed)
- Carrier testing for interested individuals

PLEASE NOTE

- Health cards are required to participate in screening
- Participants must be over age of 18
- These diseases are not exclusive to Ashkenazi Jews. Everyone is welcome.
- Childcare available.

Please call 905-528-0121 extension 8 to register for this complimentary service.

genzyme

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Community

New Programs Offered at Kehila

Students and teachers begin each morning at Kehila by exercising together to lively music. What a wonderful way to begin every morning! This year we are enhancing our Phys-Ed program in many ways, by developing a track and field and soccer program. Our gym program every Friday at the JCC is running smoothly and we look forward to more mutual activities with the JCC.

We have also developed a technology program, whereby the students will learn typing skills and computer skills, as well as the inside workings of a computer.

This is the second year of our new music program at Kehila. Our choir will perform both English and Hebrew songs in the Hamilton Choir Festival on December 5, 2006.

Parents at Kehila devote their time and energy to all aspects of our program even though time is often hard to find. We thank our dedicated parents for their commitment and faith in our program.

The High Holidays have gone by quickly. We had a won-



Celebrating Sukkot with Rabbi Itkin

derful time hosting Rabbi Itkin with his Sukkamobile. Thank you for giving our students a unique experience! We have already started to prepare for our Channukah party. The celebration will take place on December 18th. The students will perform Channukah songs, and Ben Sharpe from Beth Jacob Synagogue will lead the Brachot on the Channukah candles. Kehila tradition will continue this year and each child will donate a box of candles to a family in our

community. Our Channukah celebration is open to all. Come and join us! Stay tuned for other events at Kehila: February 2nd – Avigail Presentations and Tu Bishvat Celebration, February 4 – Zimriya in Toronto, February 15th - Kehila Open House.

It is not late to enroll your child at Kehila for this year. Enrollment for the 2007-2008 school year has also begun. Please call the office at 905-529-7725 for an appointment. Remember that at Kehila, every student shines!

Beth Jacob Synagogue

Beth Jacob Synagogue is proud to announce that our renewal process is well underway with a dynamic young rabbi and a new cadre of volunteers who have stepped forward to head up committees, lend their skills and share their enthusiasm towards creating a caring and vibrant community.

The synagogue is currently planning a full roster of social and educational events to which the entire community is invited. Our annual Hanukkah dinner is taking place on Sunday, December 17 at 6:30 pm. Bring the whole family for a wonderful evening that will feature a wonderful meal and exciting children's activities.

Our next big event will be Dancing Like The Stars, a gala evening featuring professional dancers from Arthur Murray Studios on Saturday January 20 at 7:30 pm. The program will feature a dance performance, lessons, wine and desserts. So bring out those dancing shoes and join us for what promises to be a fantastic night. Tickets are \$25 and can be ordered by calling the shul office at 905-522-1351.

Our adult education committee is hard at work planning a Jewish film and speaker series that

is open to the entire community.

Our first scheduled speaker will be Asher Niam, former Israeli ambassador to Ethiopia, who will reveal the behind the scenes story of Operation Solomon, the Exodus of Ethiopian Jews to Israel. Ambassador Niam's presentation, which will include a vivid 20-minute documentary produced by the Israeli Air Force on the Operation, will also include an overview of the immigration and absorption challenges faced by Ethiopian immigrants upon their arrival in Israel.

In advance of the ambassador's presentation the synagogue will launch its film series with the screening of Live and Become, which takes place during the 1984 airlifting of Ethiopian Jews to Israel. The plot follows the odyssey of an Ethiopian boy who is encouraged by his mother to fake Jewishness and escape to Israel. Renamed Schlomo, adopted by a liberal French-Israeli couple and tutored by an African rabbi, he grows into a complex teen and then a man who understands the weight of his opportunities and secrets. For further details visit the synagogue website at www.bethjacobsynagogue.ca.

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Community

Special Mentschen

Mazel Tov to **Ira Rosen**, son of **Hilda Rosen** for winning a 2006 VIP award from The City Of Hamilton, in recognition of the "tremendous contribution of your community involvement" Ira's community activities include being a founding member of the Westdale Heritage Housing Action Committee, taking part in the Hamilton Police Services Community Business Plan, and involvement in the Ainslie Wood /Westdale Community Association of Resident Home Owners Inc. He also sits on the Board of Directors as the Liaison for Property Standards and Bylaw Enforcement and volunteers with the Student Community Support Network, the Presidents Advisory Council on Community Relations and the Community Accountability Program.



Laurie Yanover



Barbara Laskin

The staff at UJA Federation wants to make special mention of some additional volunteers, whose names went unmentioned in the last issue of the HJN.

A special Kol HaKavod to: **Liz Tick and Sandi Fuss**, (pictured on page 3 of this issue) for co-chairing Top Gifts Women's Division for too many years to mention; to **Barbara Laskin**, for her consistent presence at the registration desk at UJA Federation Walkathons where she greets walkers with her signature warm smile. We can always count on Barbara to recruit her cohorts to help her in this endeavour; and last but not least, to **Laurie Yanover**, photographer extraordinaire, who can always be counted to show up at community events with his camera to record the most precious moments for posterity. Thanks Laurie!

Jewish Studies at Mac Continues To Grow

BY WENDY SCHNEIDER

Recent developments at McMaster promise to raise the profile of Jewish Studies at the University. While there is, to date, no Jewish Studies Department at Mac, the University does offer courses in Jewish History, Jewish Thought and Biblical Studies within its Religious Studies Department.

Seeking to build on the existing course offerings, the University, in 2002, instituted an annual lecture in Jewish Studies, whose goal, according to Professor Eileen Schuller, was to create "an important annual event that would enable us to bring in leading scholars in Jewish Studies to speak on a variety of topics."

The annual lecture, endowed two years ago by Marvin Goldblatt in memory of his late wife, Lillian, was seen by the Department as "the one thing that we open up very much to the local Jewish community as well as involving both graduate and undergraduate students", said Professor Schuller.

Featured speakers since the lecture's inception have included



Michaele-Sue Goldblatt with Marnie and CeCe Schreiber.

Reuven Firestone who spoke on Holy War in Judaism, Christianity and Islam ; Michael Marrus, who spoke on the topic, Jacques Maritain, the Vatican, and the Holocaust; Judith Baskin, who delivered a talk on Piety and Gender in Jewish Medieval Martyrdom Narratives; David Biale, who spoke on the Blood Libel. and, this year, Elliot Wolfson, who delivered a lecture entitled "Picturing God: Representations of the Divine Body in Medieval Kabbalah".

Jewish Studies at McMaster will soon be further advanced thanks to a recent donation by the Herb and CeCe Schreiber Foundation that will provide the funding to bring in a visiting scholar to do a combination of teaching, public lectures and other activities both in the Religious Studies Department and in the community. The Department is currently seeking applications or nominations of those interested in filling the position, which is scheduled to begin in either the 2007 Fall semester or 2008 Winter semester.

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Jewish Genealogical Society

With a roaring start, the Jewish Genealogical Society – Hamilton & Area (JGSH) opened their third season with two astounding lectures. Local fine art photographer Lynda Morris dazzled the audience with a series of breathtaking vistas of her recent trip to the historical Jewish sites of Italy, while Hamilton Spectator investigative reporter Wade Hemsworth captivated both our society as well as a contingent of members of the Ontario Genealogical Society's (OGS) WISE (Wales, Ireland, Scotland, & England) group, sharing his expertise on how to obtain the most out of your interviews.

2007 is already gearing up to be just as electrifying to the professional and amateur genealogist alike with a diversified slate of events sure to appeal to just about every one.

For anyone exploring their ancestry in Poland, the Russian Pale and Galician Ukraine, the Jewish Records Indexing – Poland (JRI-Poland) database is one tool that can't be overlooked. Created in 1995, this is the largest searchable database of Jewish vital records available online. It is an important first step in finding clues to locating family records from over 450 different Polish towns. There are currently indices for over three million Jewish vital records (births, marriages, deaths) on this formidable database. Although not all can be found online just yet, the internet availability is increasing continuously.

On January 10, 2007, JGSH President Hazel Boon will take you on a guided tour of the JRI-Poland to demonstrate hands-on, the ins and outs of navigating this comprehensive map to our past. Sample searches will demonstrate step-by-step how to work your way through its vast

resources, and maximize your search results. Then, when you find something of interest, Hazel will display how easy it is to use the "point & click" Order Processing System to purchase copies of original records, for further investigation. This is one evening you won't want to miss.

On February 7, 2007, Dr. Ralph Bloch, Professor at McMaster University and past-board member of the JGSH, will update us on his current groundbreaking research into the Bavarian Swabia. Located 60 km west of Munich are some 23 shtetls that had thriving Jewish communities in the 18th and 19th centuries. Working as part of an international cooperative effort, Dr. Bloch and his team of Jewish Genealogists have uncovered vast archival documentary material relating to these communities as well as to its individual inhabitants. Join us as Ralph details their challenges and successes in making this material available worldwide on the internet.

All meetings are held at Temple Anshe Sholom, 215 Cline Ave., Hamilton. For more information about day, date and time, please check our website at www.jgsh.org. Everyone is welcome, and admission is free for members. Non-members wishing to attend are asked to pay a \$5 fee at the door, which is used to help defer our costs and will then be applied to the JGSH membership fee when joining in the same membership year.

Additional information about the JGSH and our meetings can be found on our website at www.jgsh.org. You can also contact Hazel directly at president@jgsh.org or by phone at 905-524-3345. We look forward to seeing you there.



The Board of Directors of the Jewish National Fund of Hamilton is delighted to announce that

Tom and Sasha Weisz

will be the Negev Dinner Honourees for 2007.

Tom and Sasha are both very well known for their involvement in a variety of wonderful causes both within the Jewish community and in the greater Hamilton community. Lorraine Cohen, president of the Jewish National Fund of Hamilton indicated that "Tom and Sasha have supported JNF for many years and are stalwarts of our Jewish community. It is truly fitting that they are being honoured by JNF and the Jewish community for their outstanding achievements."

The Negev Dinner is scheduled to occur on Sunday, June 10, 2007 at the Hamilton Convention Centre.

For more information on the 2006 Negev Dinner, please contact Roberta Katz at 905 527-5516.

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Community

Temple students hit the trails!

BY
JAMIE ABRAM

With the beautiful fall weather upon us, Temple Anshe Sholom planned 3 outdoor activities to get our students out of the classroom and onto the trails! These activities were "Hebrew on a Hike", "Torah on the Trail" and an overnight adventure to Camp George.

We came up with the idea of doing "Hebrew on a Hike" and "Torah on the Trail" for several reasons. First of all, it's fun for the students to do things differently once in a while. We also considered that taking Hebrew out of the classroom and into the world brings it alive in a tangible way for the students. Finally, we try to teach that Torah is about our lives, but often we worry that the children may not perceive its real value to them after they leave the temple. These programs were designed to encourage them to take their perceptions of Torah out of the building and into the world around them. The kids looked forward to their turn and kept asking their teachers "Is it this week?"

Hebrew on the Hike was an activity run for our grades 5, 6, & 7 classes. We tied the event into the holiday Sukkot. Students were divided into 3 teams and given several instructions in Hebrew, such as "walk on the trail and find 3 red leaves". Using a dictionary and their knowledge of the Hebrew language, the students had to work through the instructions. The teams were asked to collect things found in nature, such as branches and leaves, and to build a sukkah using what they found. Once built, the teams had to "sell" the sukkah as if they were real estate agents. The objective of this Hebrew on a Hike was to have the students use Hebrew to solve problems, and identify the key components of a sukkah through hands on activities! All that participated had a great time. We have scheduled this activity again in the spring and we will all look forward to hitting the trails once again!

Our Camp George trip



Pictured above (l to r) are Chelsea Abram, Noam Berlin, Jennifer Waxman, Sophie Popper, Rebecca Sampson and Misha Apel

came about through the generosity of an anonymous donor. Our grade 4 and 5 students, along with other grade 4 and 5 kids from Temples across the GTA were offered the opportunity to go to Camp George for an overnight adventure. This activity was funded because this donor believes that every Jewish child should have at least one chance to sit around a campfire at a Jewish Camp. We had 5 students who were thrilled to attend and on Friday, September 29, right after school, they were picked up in a brand new coach bus watching movies and singing all the way!

Once they arrived at camp, they settled into their cabins and the fun began. Delicious meals, a Shabbat service filled with song, climbing the ropes course, Macabiah, and of course, a campfire, were all part of the Camp George experience. The tired, but happy campers returned to Hamilton at 10:00 p.m. on Saturday evening filled with stories of new friends and wonderful memories of their time at Camp George.

Our Educator/Cantorial Soloist Laura Wolfson says, "we will continue to look for more ways to encourage the use of Hebrew as a living language, and explore new ways to teach the kids to take Torah out of the Temple and into their own worlds." Stay tuned for more outside adventures of the students of Anshe Sholom.

Hasidic Reggae Hip Hop & New York City

Midrasha - Hamilton Hebrew High, continues to make giant inroads in connecting Jewish teens to their Jewish heritage in a relevant and hip way. This past year, Hebrew High achieved full accreditation with the Ontario Ministry of Education and launched a series of innovative Judaic courses that attract students from the broad spectrum of Hamilton Jewish life. Close to 30 teens are now enrolled in weekly classes such as Philosophy, Ethics and Hebrew Language, a number expected to increase significantly next year.

Yaakov Morel, teacher and Event Coordinator at Hebrew High, says there is palpable demand for both courses and vibrant social programs aimed at teens. Morel is quick to point out the need to create a teen culture in Hamilton that includes trips and events. In October, Hebrew High chartered a bus to the Matisyahu concert at The Docks in downtown Toronto. Matisyahu, a Hasidic reggae singer/rapper has achieved unprecedented commercial success bringing Jewish-themed music been to the forefront of the American cultural mainstream. With two certified Gold records, a Top 10 Single on the Modern Rock charts, and numerous television appearances, Matisyahu has been bringing his energetic and soulful mix of reggae/hip hop/Jewish inspiration to the masses since 2004.

"The Hamilton kids had a



Matisyahu with David Kravetsky, Yaakov Morel and Bess Martin.

blast," said Morel. "At the Matisyahu concert students realized that Judaism is fun, and that Hamilton Hebrew High offers an amazing time both inside and outside of the classroom. In particular our backstage pass winners, Bess Martin and Dovid Kravetsky were thrilled to meet Matisyahu in person." Being together with a few thousand fans, three quarters of which were Jewish, literally enthralled by Matisyahu's catchy tunes and meaningful lyrics solidified that feeling among the students.

In November, Hebrew High hosted a weekend retreat in New York City. In New York, Hamilton teens saw the sites, went to the Broadway hit STOMP, visited Times Square, ate at landmark kosher restaurants, and stayed in luxurious hotel accommodations. Most impor-

tantly, they engaged their Judaism and met like-minded Jewish students from CHAT and public high schools in Toronto, Ottawa, Kitchener, and Halifax.

One participant told her parents that the fact that she enjoyed the social and entertaining part of the weekend came as no shock, but she was pleasantly surprised to see how she enjoyed - and was inspired by - the Jewish component of the trip.

Morel concluded that these experiences have been overwhelmingly positive for him personally. "To see Jewish teens, whom until now may have been intimidated or not excited by their culture, be "sparked" Jewishly has touched me in a very profound way."

For more information about classes or programs call 647-202-8209.



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